

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 DUBLIN 01098 161606Z

44

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SS-15 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 RSR-01 (ADP) W

----- 106414

R 161555Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4936

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL BELFAST

UNCLAS DUBLIN 1098

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, EI

SUBJ: ST. PATRICK'S DAY AS NON-SECTARIAN COMMEMORATION

1. GOI AUG 15 ANNOUNCED INTENTION TO OBSERVE ST. PATRICK'S DAY IN FUTURE AS "DAY OF NATIONAL COMMEMORATION" FOR ALL WHO HAVE DIED FOR IRELAND, INCLUDING VICTIMS OF CIVL STRIFE. STATEMENT NOTES THAT ST. PATRICK'S DAY "HAS LONG BEEN CELEBRATED BY CHRISTIANS OF ALL DENOMINATIONS AND SERVES TO REMIND US OF A COMMON HERITAGE DATING FROM LONG BEFORE OUR PRESENT DIVISIONS. IT IS A DAY, THEREFORE, WHICH ALL IRISHMEN CAN SHARE, IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR TRADITION. DENOMINATION OR POLITICS."
 2. GOVT APPARENTLY HOPES THAT ST. PATRICK'S DAY WILL COME TO BE ACCEPTED AS REPLACEMENT FOR ANNUAL SECTARIAN COMMEMORATIONS ON BOTH GREEN AND ORANGE SIDE.
 3. REACTION HAS NOT YET DEVELOPED, BUT A SPOKESMAN FOR PROVO SINN FEIN IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT HE PREFERRED CELEBRATING EASTER RISING.
 4. COMMENT: IDEA OF REPLACING ANNUAL HATE-THY-NEIGHBOR DAYS IS CERTAINLY APPEALING, BUT WE EXPECT IT WILL BE HARD TO SELL TO ZEALOTS ON GREEN SIDE, LET ALONE ORANGE.
- MOORE

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NNN

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